

Commissioner Peterson Helps Gov. Walker Protect Watersheds

Governor Kicks Off Watershed Initiative With Three Cabinet Members and 90 4th graders

Gov. Olene Walker unveiled an aggressive plan, November 24, 2003, to improve water quality throughout the state by introducing her Watershed Initiative which falls under the Walker Work Plan. The program is comprehensive and is designed to improve both water quality and quantity over the coming years. To initiate the program, the governor will focus on segments of 25 key streams and reservoirs.

"This project can affect every Utahn in a positive way," said Walker. "In order to improve Utah, today and tomorrow, we need to ensure our future prosperity have a clean and sustainable supply of water."

A watershed is an area of land from which all water drains to the same location such as a stream, pond, lake, river or wetland. Watersheds are dynamic natural systems that not only provide water, forage and habitat for wildlife and livestock, they help clean our air and offer places to recreate and find solitude. They also contain timber, energy and mineral resources, and are the headwaters of our food supply.

Agriculture and Food and the watershed

Commissioner Peterson emphasized that without a sustainable supply of water, there would be no food, and that properly managed watersheds play an important roll in our lives.

"The forests and trees that are found in watersheds serve as the lungs of this important system," said Peterson. "Trees, especially aspen, cleanse the air of impurities and give back clean oxygen," he added.

He also added that wetlands act as a filter removing dirt from water that will eventually become our drinking water.

It is the governor's goal to provide for cleaner rivers and lakes, to enhance water yield, and to increase public awareness and wise use of Utah's watersheds.

The watershed initiative will also offer educational materials and a website (www.adoptawaterbody.utah.gov) so schools, businesses and individuals can find their local watershed and possibly join an already existing program or start their own. By the winter of 2004, the governor will assemble her Cabinet for a watershed progress report.

Over the next year, Walker will:

- * Publicize the Governor's Watershed Initiative web page that contains comprehensive information on programs and shows how to adopt-a-waterbody.
 - * Lead an effort to double the number of organizations, school classes and families participating in the existing "Adopt-a-Water Body" program.
 - * Encourage fourth grade teachers to select and teach a watershed lesson plan and activity. Lists of suggested plans and activities would be located on the governor's website.
4. Where does the water go? 5. What can I do?



Governor Olene Walker and Ag. and Food Commissioner Cary Peterson joined with Jackson Elementary 4th graders from Salt Lake City to learn where their water comes from. Watersheds provide clean and healthy water that helps sustain our food supply.

(right) Bill Damery, an environmental scientist for the Utah Division of Water Quality helps students understand how pollution affects our ground water.



UTAH AG NEWS

JANUARY

2004

on the

web



Governor
Commissioner of Agriculture and Food
Deputy Commissioner
AG. News Editor — Public Info. Officer

Olene S. Walker
Cary G. Peterson
Kyle R. Stephens
Larry Lewis

Utah Farm Bureau Federation Honors Kyle Stephens With Friend of Agriculture Award

Deputy Commissioner, Kyle R. Stephens, received the Utah Farm Bureau's "Friend of Agriculture" award at the federation's semi-annual meeting in Salt Lake City November 20. In presenting the award, UFB President Leland Hogan cited Stephens' extensive background and accomplishments that has helped him advance the goals of Utah agriculture.

"We who know Kyle Stephens know that he has a deep love for the land and the people who produce our food and fiber. He has devoted his entire professional career to the agriculture industry.

In 1990 he was named Director of the Department's Food and Dairy Division, later reorganized as the Division of Regulatory Services. In that capacity, Kyle was responsible for the statewide staff who inspect food quality, weights and measures and other services to assure a safe, high quality food supply and fair and honest retailing of our products.

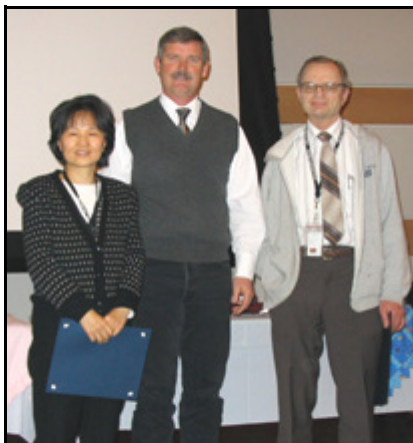


Deputy Commissioner Kyle R. Stephens (3rd from left) receives the Utah Farm Bureau "Friend of Agriculture" award from UFB President Leland Hogan Nov., 20.



2003 Service Awards

The following UDAF employees celebrated various yearly milestones at the department's annual holiday celebration, Dec. 10, 2003.



Chemistry: Jennifer Sung, 10 years of service; Dr. David Clark, division director; Barr Christensen, 35 years.

Administrative Services: Not pictured, Eileen Frisbey, 10 years.



Plant Industry: Curtis Parker, 15 years of service; Terry Freeman, 10; Clint Burfitt, 5; Dick Wilson, division director. Not pictured; Gene Mecham, 15; Mark Ashcroft, 20; David Daniels, 10; Ed Bianco, 25; K. David Finch, 25; Cheryl Gardiner, 25; Doug Saunders, 25; George Wilson, Jr., 25.



Marketing and Conservation: Delores T. Hansen, 15 years of service; George S. Hopkin, acting division director, 15. Not pictured; Mike Smoot, 15; Richard Sparks, 5; Roger Brian, 5; Klayton Holt, 5; Boyd Pallesen, 20.



Regulatory Services: Mark Demings, 10 years of service; Mitzi Hansen, 25; Russell Knight, 10; Claudia Gale, 20. Not pictured; Randy Jensen, 10; Donald McClellan, 15; Dr. Chris Crnich, division director.



Animal Industry: Richard Hafen, 15 years of service; Troy Higgs 5; Bruce King, DVM, 5; Ken Christensen, 20; Leslie Jordan, 5; Terry Menlove, 25; Michael R. Marshall, DVM, division director, 20. Not pictured; Don Lindsay, 5; and Robert Erickson, DVM, 10.